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consideration are filled with chlorophyll, a coloring matter which, save rare exceptions, can be developed only under the influence of light of a certain intensity.

Botanical Literature.

Manual of the Botany (Phænogamia and Pteridophyta) of the Rocky Mountain Regions, from New Mexico to the British Boundary.

By John M. Coulter, Ph.D. Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.: New York and Chicago. 1885.

This book will be gladly welcomed by western botanists, as well as by those of their eastern confreres who have had occasion to identify western plants, and who know by experience how difficult it often is to obtain access to descriptions. The range of the work includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Western Dakota, Western Nebraska and Western Kansas, the eastern boundary being very nearly represented by the hundredth meridian. The greater portion of contiguous floras is also described, so that "the western part of the Indian Territory, Northwestern Texas, Northern New Mexico and Arizona, and Eastern Utah and Idaho may be included for all except their own peculiar plants." This is a very wide range and embraces one of three regions west of the Mississippi Valley prairie country that possess well defined floras, the others being that of the Pacific slope, which is provided for in the Botany of California, and that which extends from the Great Basin to Arizona, New Mexico, Western Texas, and southward into Mexico, and which is found described partly in Mr. Watson's Botany of the Fortieth Parallel and partly in Dr. Rothrock's Botany of the Wheeler Survey.

As a general thing, Prof. Coulter follows the sequence of orders adopted by Bentham and Hooker, but he has transferred Gymnosperms to the end of Phænogams, and has subordinated Monocotyledons and Dicotyledons to Angiosperms, as this, he remarks, better expresses relationships that have long been recognized. The old term "Cryptogam" has been discarded for that of Pteridophyta, and the classes and orders have been arranged under this series in that sequence which the author thinks best expresses relationships.

The descriptions of adventive plants are in all cases printed in smaller type and placed at the bottom of the page.

In size, typography and general make up, the book is uniform with Dr. Gray's Manual. In view of the want that has long existed for a concise account of the flora of the Rocky Mountain region, in a convenient form for reference, we bespeak for Prof. Coulter's work a large sale.

Les Procédés opératoires en Histologie Végétale; Guide pour les Etudes de Microchimie. Par Louis Olivier. Paris: Savy. 1855.

In this volume, Mr. Olivier has brought together in systematic order, from various scattered papers, descriptions of the most approved methods of preparing microchemical reagents, and the mode of applying them to the study of plants. After pointing out how great a light is shed upon the minute anatomy of the tissues by the microchemical method, the author discusses the form, the structure, the contractility,

and the various properties of protoplasm; the general structure and physiological rôle of the cellular nucleus; the degree of complication of the ternary membranes; the nature of the substances that exist in the cells, in solution or in an amorphous or crystalline state; and then proceeds to give the methods of examining each organ, tissue, or other plant element.

This book will prove a valuable addition to the libraries of those who are interested in the study of vegetable histology, although students in this country are perhaps well enough provided for in this respect in Prof. Trelease's translation of Poulsen's work on the same subject, published by S. E. Cassino & Co. last year.

Talks Afeld about Plants and the Science of Plants. By L. H. Bailey, Jr. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1885. 12mo., pp. 168.

This is a pleasantly written little volume, well adapted to fulfil the mission for which its author intended it, *i. e.*, to give the non-botanical public "a popular account of some of the leading and external features of common plants." Some of the topics treated of are the following: the flower; the stem; the classification of flowering plants; the rose family; the composite family; a peep at the inside; the sexes of plants; cross fertilization; hidden flowers; the arrangement of leaves; carnivorous plants; a talk about roots; how plants are named, etc. The work is profusely illustrated and handsomely printed, and can be recommended as a safe guide to those who desire to obtain an intelligent idea of plant structure and classification, and who yet do not wish to take up the study of botany as a science.

Report on the Flora of Western and Southern Texas. By Dr. V. Havard, U. S. A. 8vo., pamph., pp. 85.

This very valuable report is based upon the observations and collections made by Dr. Havard during the last five years at various posts at which he has been stationed, and also, "and chiefly, while on duty with the expeditions for the exploration of Western Texas, under the command of Major W. K. Livermore, . . . in the summer and fall of 1881 and 1883." In the first part, the author describes, in a general way, the vegetation of Western and Southern Texas, and sketches the topographical features of the country. The second part is devoted to economic notes upon such plants of the Texano-Mexican flora as are known to have useful or baneful properties, or to be of value to the industries.

Les Champignons supérieurs. Physiologie. Organographie. Classification. Détermination du Genre; avec un Vocabulaire des Termes techniques. Par L. Forquignon. Paris: Octave Doin. 1885.

This is a little duodecimo volume dedicated to beginners in the study of the higher fungi, and gives excellent descriptions of some of the principal species of Agaricini, Polyporei, Hydnei, Thelephoræ, Clavariæ, etc., found in France. The descriptions are followed by a brief account of some exotic fungi; by a bibliographical index, which, although not exhaustive, is sufficiently complete in its enumeration of the most interesting works on mycology; and by a vocabulary in which the Latin words are explained. Finally, 105 excellent figures,

due to Dr. Quelet, add to the value of the book, and give a correct idea of all the genera and of the principal species.

Henry Shaw School of Botany. Inaugural Exercises in Memorial Hall, St. Louis Museum of Fine Arts, Nov. 6th, 1885. 8vo. pamph., pp., 24.

Catalogue of the Phænogamous and Vascular Cryptogamous Plants of North America (exclusive of Mexico.) By J. H. Oyster. 8vo, pp. 112, Paola, Kansas. 1885.

Sketch of the Botanical Work of the Rev. Moses A. Curtis, A.M., D.D., F.A.A.S. By Thomas F. Wood. Raleigh: Edwards, Broughton & Co. 1885. 8vo, pamph., pp. 31; with steel plate portrait of the subject of the memoir.

Proceedings of the Torrey Club.—The regular meeting of the Club was held at Columbia College, Tuesday evening, Dec. 8th. In the absence of the President, Mr. Braman occupied the chair.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to extend to Dr. Gray the Club's congratulations on the completion of his seventy-fifth birthday submitted the following correspondence:

(RESOLUTIONS.)

Resolved: That the Torrey Botanical Club of New York sends its greetings to Dr. Asa Gray on the attainment of his seventy-fifth birthday, and its congratulations that it finds him in the enjoyment of health, the full possession of all his great powers and undiminished enthusiasm in the science to which he has devoted his life.

Resolved: That we tender to Dr. Gray our gratitude for the splendid contributions he has made to American botany, and our heartfelt wishes that many years of activity and happiness may yet be added to his already long and useful life.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M.D.,
ADDISON BROWN,
E. G. K. BRITTON, } Committee.

(REPLY.)

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

November 20th, 1885.

To Arthur Hollick, Secretary, and Prof. J. S. Newberry, Addison Brown, Esq., Mrs. E. G. K. Britton, Committee of the Torrey Botanical Club:

Let me return my sincere thanks for the honor you have paid me and the pleasure you have given me by the congratulations which the Torrey Club has sent through you, on the occasion of my seventy-fifth birthday, with which I have been deeply touched and gratified.

With best wishes to you all personally, and for the prosperity of the Club which has so honored and venerated a name, I remain

Sincerely yours,
ASA GRAY.

Mr. O. R. Willis read a number of reminiscences of some of our earlier botanists—Torrey, Rafinesque, Short and others.

Mr. Britton showed a specimen from the Torrey herbarium labeled *Geranium*, simply, collected by Dr. Denslow in 1867 on the Kingsbridge road, and which proves to be *G. Sibiricum*, L.

Mrs. Britton remarked upon some additions to the flora of Westchester County, and exhibited specimens of double-flowered *Viola pubescens* from Pelham Manor.